

The Sun.

FOR 1888.

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The Detention of the German Army.

When the German Parliament assented to a partial surrender of its power over the purse by fixing for many years ahead the sum to be annually expended on the army, the Government on its part was supposed to have assumed a corresponding obligation. But, alas! the Bismarckian was understood to say, to give me as many hundred thousand men and I will promise not to ask for more. The bargain, however, turns out to have been one-sided, and irrevocable only on the part of the people's representatives. They cannot take back their gift, but they must not expect the other party to keep faith. Last spring, through the misgivings caused by the truce proceedings of Boulanger, the Reichstag was led to authorize the enlargement of the active army by about ten per cent. Now, under the pressure of fresh rumors of war, the popular Assembly is called upon to sanction a new loan of \$70,000,000 for strengthening the *Landwehr*, or First Reserve, by the addition of a large fraction of the *Landsturm*, or Home Guard, which, under former laws, could not be required to serve beyond the frontiers of Germany. Nor is there any longer any pretence of assurance that the German people has reached its utmost limit. Last year the Government explicitly declared that it would make no further regulations on the score of national defence. Now, on the other hand, the Minister of War reserves to give any pledge of the sort.

What is the meaning of all this? Why is Germany to be transformed into a vast camp, wherein not even old age will be exempted from service, hitherto reserved for men in the prime of life? What can these hurried and colossal preparations signify except a profound conviction in the mind of Bismarck that war may break out at any hour, and that next time his country may have to fight not only for conquest but for existence? But why, it may be asked, does he need more soldiers now than would, as he asserted, amply suffice last spring? Are not the factors of the problem precisely the same? It is true that with perhaps one exception the factors are ostensibly identical, but they may have acquired different military values in the eyes of the Berlin War Office. The triple alliance remains unbroken, and as before, so now, Germany, Austria, and Italy would be arrayed on one side, while it is as probable as ever that no change of government could hold back France from siding with Russia on the other. About the attitude of England alone doubts are beginning to be entertained, but it is unlikely that Bismarck ever placed much reliance on her aid.

Why, then, has Bismarck changed his mind about his country's ability to hold her own without a further drain on her resources? Evidently he must think that last year he either underrated the power of his antagonists, or overrated the strength of his allies. He may even recognize mistakes in both particulars. It is certain that Russia, notwithstanding her notorious weakness of her treasury, which has only evaded the semblance of a deficit by the suspension of its sinking fund—has shown herself able to place in the field on the confines of Posen and Galicia one of the largest armies ever massed in Europe, a force almost comparable to the Titanic musters of 1870 and 1871. It is also acknowledged in Berlin that France possesses and has equipped all her soldiers with a gun far superior to any weapon with which the troops of Germany, Austria, or Italy have as yet been furnished. On the other hand, the tardy and imperfect measures taken by Austria to protect Galicia have made it pretty clear that her mobilizing machinery is not much more trustworthy than it was a year ago. Then as to Italy, the other ally of Germany, the quality of her troops, so gravely discredited in 1866, has yet to be demonstrated, and should she fall in Abyssinia, where Europe's eyes are turned, her military utility would not be rated very high.

So that, from a survey of the whole situation, the inference seems reasonable that Bismarck aims to make Germany so strong that she would be able to defend herself, almost single-handed, against Russia and France, for a time at least long enough to permit her allies to be made available. But who knows whether her opponents will wait until her army is expanded to the desired proportions? That must be what Bismarck has in view when, after saying, as the report runs, that he does not want war, and expects peace during the present twelve-month, he ominously adds that such were his opinions in the beginning of 1870; yet war followed all the same.

A Specimen of Balfour's Work.

One of the Irish members of Parliament now serving sentence in Tullamore jail is Mr. WILLIAM J. LANE, a merchant of Cork, an old and highly respected citizen of that town, for many years a member of its Corporation, and at the time of his arrest the editor of the *Cork Daily Herald*.

A brief statement of the facts in Mr. LANE's case will enable all fair-minded Americans to judge for themselves how far the sympathies of liberty-loving people on this side of the Atlantic ought to go out toward the man and woman whom BALFOUR and his brutal subordinates, backed by the English colonialists, are oppressing and outraging by every device which cruel ingenuity can suggest.

About a month ago a scandal that is now notorious was uncovered by Canon O'MAHONEY in a speech at the Cork Chamber of Commerce. He asserted that there was and had been for years in Cork a systematic corruption of girls of tender age, and that persons holding office under the British Gov-

ernment were involved. On December 28, three little girls, all under thirteen years of age, inmates of the Good Shepherd Convent, swore out information before the Mayor, charging Major ROBERTS, Governor of the Cork County Jail, with criminal assault.

Mr. LANE, as editor of the *Cork Herald*, took up the case of the seduced children as a public duty, and vigorously sustained Canon O'MAHONEY in demanding a thorough investigation and impartial prosecution of the guilty person or persons.

But the prosecution of this Government official and influential member of the colonialist party in Ireland has been scandalously evaded by the subordinates of Mr. BALFOUR. Twenty-one magistrates of that city, representing every creed and every shade of politics, called upon Mr. PRYOR, appointed and paid by the British Government to investigate and punish crime of any kind in that district. The Cork magistrates urged Capt. PLUNKETT to do his duty. The Government official made a pretence of instituting an inquiry and then let the matter drop, offering one pretext and another for his failure to act. There was apparently a determination on the part of the Government to cover up the inconvenient scandal. The indignation of the people of the town found expression in many ways; and, among others, in the articles which Mr. LANE printed in the *Cork Daily Herald*. It is affirmed on good authority that the Government authorities approached Mr. LANE with a view to obtaining the silence of his newspaper; and, finding him incorruptible and fearless, determined upon another course.

On Saturday morning, Jan. 7, the *Herald* published an editorial article, severely castigating the English authorities, and, in particular, the failure of its duty in the matter of the depositions of the little girls. It also printed an interview with Canon O'MAHONEY, in which that respected ecclesiastic boldly declared his opinion of Capt. PLUNKETT's inaction, and denounced Major ROBERTS by name. In the same issue of the *Herald*, Mr. LANE published an interview with Mr. W. A. COOTE, the Secretary of the National Vigilance Association, who had gone to Cork to investigate the cases of the child victims. Altogether it was a displeasing number to the BALFOUR people.

That night Mr. LANE was arrested by a Government detective while on his way home from his office. He had been dogged all day by the police spies, and the time of his arrest was apparently chosen with a view to subjecting him to the greatest possible annoyance, and to provoking, if possible, a public disturbance. The pretext upon which he was arrested was the charge of advocating the national plan of campaign, a speech delivered at Watercashin, Dec. 20, or about five weeks before the warrant was issued. Upon this trumped-up charge, one of the most judicious and moderate of the Nationalist leaders in the South of Ireland has been arrested, tried, convicted, and railroaded to Tullamore like a common felon, to punish him for doing his duty as a journalist and as a man. "We are fully convinced," says a resolution unanimously adopted by the Cork Corporation, "that it was not for the alleged speech he was arrested, but for the purpose of punishing him for exposing what are now known as the city scandals."

This is a good illustration of the way in which the Right Hon. J. A. BALFOUR, M. P., and his subordinates are using for purposes of oppression and personal revenge the extraordinary power put into their hands by the infamous Coercion act.

The Fifth Avenue Omnibuses.

The directors of the Fifth Avenue omnibus company have unanimously voted to run their vehicles on Sunday, in order to test the demand for the additional service.

That is a very fair and reasonable conclusion, for the decision of the question as to whether the omnibuses shall be run or not is practically left to the public themselves. If the Sunday business is not profitable, the company will, of course, discontinue the service on that day; and if it is profitable, the extent to which the omnibuses are used will prove that the public demand them.

Of course the directors could not be expected, as sensible men, to pay any heed to the petition against the running of the omnibuses on Sunday, which Sunday signed by clergymen and others to the number of two or three hundred.

These petitioners based their opposition on the ground that Fifth Avenue is "peculiarly a street of churches and homes," and that as "the last considerable thoroughfare of the city this held free from the encroachments of public transportation on the Sabbath day." It ought not now to be disturbed by Sunday omnibuses. But, as a matter of fact, the Fifth Avenue does not contain so many churches as are found in other avenues, and throughout a large part of its length it is rapidly passing from a street of private residences into a street of shops and hotels. There is, for instance, no reason for forbidding Sunday omnibuses on the Fifth Avenue that does not even more strongly apply to the horse cars on Madison Avenue, which is much better entitled to be called "peculiarly a street of churches and homes."

The petitioners, too, could not consistently object to Sunday omnibuses on religious grounds, for the great majority of them are accustomed to drive to church themselves in their private carriages, and the number of these is so great that the omnibuses are few in comparison. In fact, there is no thoroughfare in the town through which there is so much Sunday driving as may be seen on the Fifth Avenue. Besides the people going to and from church in their carriages, multitudes of others are driving to the Park or returning from it. On Sunday afternoons the street is crowded with vehicles, and nowhere else in town are the Sabbatharian requirements as to the observance of the Lord's day so much and so generally disregarded.

The petitioners against the running of the Fifth Avenue omnibuses on Sunday have therefore not a leg to stand upon, and the company very justly took over to the public the decision of the question whether the service should be permanently provided.

The Fisheries.

The demand made by Congressman HENRY CABOT LODGE, in the *North American Review*, for retaliation instead of arbitration as the mode of settling the fisheries dispute, is discredited and unconvincing. He is described as the seizures, detention, and expulsions of American fishing vessels by Dominion cruisers in Dominion ports. Mr. LODGE puts this question:

"What is the remedy for such a disgraceful state of things? The country, speaking through the late Congress, said 'Retaliation,' and a resolution was passed authorizing the President to close our ports to Canadian vessels, and the obvious result was that the course, but the resolution has remained a dead letter. The Administration, having seen a treaty rejected almost unanimously by the Senate, and having watched the seizure and detention of our fishing vessels, and the expulsion of our fishermen from the waters of the country, has seen embargoed on a commission to arbitrate, which nobody wanted and nobody believes in."

The ground on which Mr. LODGE objects to this policy is that there is nothing substantial in the fisheries dispute.

ceptible of arbitration," at least at the present state of affairs.

"No man of course and self-respect agrees to leave it to arbitrators to determine whether his neighbor can roll him in the gutter, if he is so minded, nor does he call in his friends to make a treaty with an opponent who has caught him by the throat. On the contrary, he retaliates sharply and effectively, and when the normal equilibrium is restored he is ready for arbitration, and not before. The Administration 'peak like John-a-burns' in the fisheries dispute, and when they see that when political expediency would seem to render such a weak attitude utterly undesirable. We have made our blunders in the past, like other people, but never before have we needlessly and feebly succumbed to the menaces and attacks of a British province."

Mr. LODGE also advocates the policy of retaliation because the purpose and result of the Canadian measures are to cripple the New England fishery interests. On this point he quotes Gen. COGSWELL, who represents the Gloucester district in Congress:

"That Great Britain pursues her present policy as of belief, I have too much respect for her intelligence to believe; that she pursues it in order that she may build up the fishing industry in her own province, that she purveys it in order to force her fish into our ports free of duty, in order to hamper our own industry, in order to cripple our militia of the sea, and that she may raise revenue for her navy, by which, she proudly boasts, she has become a naval power, and that she pursues it, in two, in violation of our sacred rights."

But, after all, these lashings of the President in which Gen. COGSWELL, Mr. LODGE, and others indulge upon the stump and in the pages of magazines, as yet find no counterpart from them or anybody else on the floor of Congress. Who yet has offered a resolution of inquiry as to why the fishery policy indicated by Congress has not been carried out? The Shipping bill, passed year before last, provided for this same policy of retaliation, yet when Congress met last winter, and found the remedy which had thus been put into the President's hands still unused by him, it made no inquiries whatever why this was so. It did proceed, indeed, to still more strongly express its views in favor of retaliation, but under those circumstances Mr. COGSWELL and Mr. BAYARD had full liberty to ignore it. The President pursues the policy which best suited himself to his judgment, and Congress acquiesces. Articles in magazines and complaining letters do not count.

Morals Among the Colored People.

A writer in the quarterly magazine of our colored people combats with a good deal of natural resentment the common assertion that they are more immoral than the rest of the community. His argument at the beginning is rather quaint, being to the effect that, as nobody "now dares affirm that ADAM and his generation were negroes," the fall of man cannot be attributed to that race.

Then he proceeds to run through Scriptural history for the purpose of showing that the wickedness punished by the flood, the moral degradation of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the licentiousness of the period before CHRIST, are all described as occurring among other than negroes. At least, so he concludes from his devout reading of the Holy Book. The Greeks and Romans, too, were very wicked, as he finds from his study of profane history, and he has looked in vain to find any like record of negro immorality in ancient times, and in recent times "the almost innumerable scandals in high life in Europe and in our own country" cannot, as he truly remarks, be traced to negroes.

If anybody chooses to find fault with this argument of the colored writer, he may have good reason for doing so. We merely give it as a contribution to an interesting discussion. The philosopher might also be answered when, in defending the negro against the charge of thievish propensities, he concludes by saying triumphantly that "the negro has never yet stolen a railroad, a bank, nor a Governmental position." But his point that the moral defects of the negroes, such as they are, come from slavery, as a natural consequence, is unquestionably a good one. He also is justified in indignantly repelling the charge that the colored people are more than ordinarily lazy, for, as he says, with comparatively few exceptions, they are all hard at work, and the "craving desire to ascertain the meaning of things," that is, for greater knowledge, is undoubtedly strong among them.

Another writer in a later number of the same magazine undertakes to follow up this general argument by adducing statistics to show that there is a vast amount of immorality among the whites as he can easily do. He refers more particularly to the blacks as compared with the whites of foreign birth, the two being about equal in numbers according to the last census, or 632,540 negroes and 679,943 whites. But while he gives figures as to the immorality in the countries where the foreigners come, he does not set over against them the statistics of native negro immorality. Yet we shall not deny his conclusion that "white immorality is general, quite as much as black immorality."

There may be among the negroes a greater tendency to certain violations of the received moral code, due probably to slavery, as much as to race, but, on the whole, they are a very amiable people, peaceable, industrious, and of a peculiarly happy temperance; and in their general moral behavior they are about up to the average of the rest of the community under similar circumstances. There is no point of it, too, more anxious than they for improvement, intellectual and moral, and whose advance to self-respect and the respect of their neighbors has been so decided as that among the colored people of New York since emancipation gave stimulus to the ambition of their race.

The Unfallen Ceiling.

What a chance the Assemblymen of New York State have! The magnificently arched stone ceiling of their legislative chamber is considered by experts to be liable to fall at almost any moment. If it should fall, it would, as they say, gather the Assemblymen in. Some of them would go up and some would go down, but they would all leave us. The fall of this ceiling would not be like a district election. Their legislative careers might survive the one, but not the other. The collapse of the ceiling would lead them to the realms where strikers cease from troubling and ballots are at rest.

Here's where the Assembly's great opportunity comes in. With the prospect of an early termination, not by adjournment, but by structural abolition, it can freely and without reserve abandon itself to the introduction, promotion, stimulation, and perfection of wise and patriotic legislation, and, if that only, and if the crash comes, the members will go out, leaving the wreck of one of the great achievements of American architectural genius, and saving the preacher advising young men to go into politics. And after all their efforts the ceiling should stay where it is, they would find that they hadn't done themselves any harm.

When it comes to the point of wise law making, the Saturday half holiday delusion had better go first.

A Righteous Fine.

Magistrate (to prisoner)—You are charged with assaulting this man.

Prisoner—Your honor, I called me Magistrate, but I didn't touch my hand.

Magistrate—Ten dollars for not slumping him harder.

Put on the Price.

St. Louis swain (returning from the opera)—Well, Miss Shawgarden, did you enjoy the opera?

Miss Shawgarden—Oh, very much, indeed; but I put on the price for the opera.

Magistrate—Ten dollars for not slumping him harder.

Men Are Bigger Than They Used to Be.

I have measured a score of many Roman coffins, and my average showed that the average height of ancient armor was 5 feet 5 inches. In taking measurements of ancient armor, I find that the English armor was decidedly increased in average height.

I measured twenty-five mummies in the British Museum as nearly as I could through the cases, making estimate for wrapping, and I found the average height of males of 5 feet 5 inches.

The following table of the mummies shows the average height of 54 inches, about the height of the present European girl of 13. The most ancient mummy of an Egyptian king yet discovered measured 52 inches.

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was called which matured the present form of government of the United States." Now, the fact is that the papers comprising the book called "The Federalist" were not written till after the present form of government of the United States had been provided. Instead of the papers having "partly caused the calling of the Convention," they followed it, and were wholly caused by the meeting and action of the Convention. This correction is all the more important because the error to which it refers is contained in a series of articles entitled "Young People's Political History of the United States," that are to be printed all together in a volume designed to be a text book for young students and teachers.

It is hard to see why any Democrat should object to the Hon. ROWELL P. FLOWER as a member of the National Committee. He is a wise and moderate yet fertile thinker, and a practical politician of great experience and energy. As to the quality of his Democracy, it is not in the least doubtful. He is contributing to campaign funds in distinguished manner, but he would have made a most valuable member of the committee.

There is no gain without compensating loss, and no loss without compensating gain. The prohibitionists will be glad to learn that the Government of Pennsylvania, abandoned in the snow drifts of Pennsylvania, and non-prohibitionists will recognize without a murmur the fact that the snow will keep the beer in good condition.

The gravity of nations is again eclipsed. CHAUNCEY DREW has a sore throat, and has been ordered by his physician to shut up for a few days. Why can't HENRY W. BLAIR get a sore throat that will impede the navigation of his eternal colic?

It is our duty and would, under more lenient climatic conditions, be our pleasure to congratulate that budding metropolis, St. Paul, upon the opening, with all conditions of blizzardous activity, of its 1888 ice palace. But there is a general feeling just at present that so many people have been freezing to death in the zero-cold West that the ice palaces are rather a luxury than a necessity.

Our esteemed satellite, the Moon, will be seen under a cloud darkly this evening. It's rather an interesting fact that about the time our esteemed contemporary, THE EVENING SUN, gets out its extra to-day, the Moon extra will walk off with itself, completely phased.

Mr. FOURAU of Algeria deserves to take high rank among those benefactors who cause two blades of grass to grow in place of one. With a bit of artesian wells he has reclaimed a barren tract on the edge of the Sahara, where 90,000 palm trees are thriving. Not content with the fame this achievement has brought him, he is now attempting an exploit that seems more foolhardy than commendable.

Attended only by a few native servants, he has disappeared southward amid the Saharan wastes, on a visit to the fierce Touaregs, who have murdered so many travellers. About the time he started the body of young PALAT reached France, marred by the spear thrusts with which the Touaregs ended his ambitious attempt to reach the interior.

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